

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - March 11, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Richard Sills pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to an Information charging him with one count of threats involving animal enterprises, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 43(a) and (b)(2)(A). Sills entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns.

According to court records, Sills admitted that on or about December 5, 2007, he made a series of threatening phone calls and sent one letter to the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) that warned of the placement of bombs in six campus buildings. Sills admitted that he made the threats in order to interfere with the activities of UCSD's animal research facilities. After Sills made the threats, UCSD employees discovered a hoax improvised explosive device in the Leichtag Building, a campus research facility where scientists conduct animal testing. Sills admitted responsibility for the hoax device. Court

records also reveal that the economic damage caused by the hoax bomb scare totaled \$10,419.01. Defendant has agreed to make restitution in this amount to the victims in this case, which include UCSD.

Sentencing for Sills is scheduled for June 16, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., before United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08cr0213-LAB**

RICHARD SILLS

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 43 (Threats Involving Animal Enterprises)

Maximum Penalty: 5 years incarceration, \$250,000 fine, restitution to victims, and up to three years on supervised release.

**AGENCY**

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
San Diego Police Department  
UCSD Police Department